THE CONFESSION AND EXECUTION

As well of the ſeveral Priſoners that ſuffered at

TYBURN

On *Wedneſday* the 17th of *April* 1678.

At which time were Executed

Joſeph Wright,
Thomas Bateman,
William Baker,
Thomas Davies,
William Dukes.
James Crouch,
and
George Dogget.

As alſo of the Burning of

Jane Pratt in *Smithfield*, for Clipping, Waſhing, Filing, and Diminiſhing the Kings Coyn; who was in Newgate about a year ago on Suſpition of the ſame Fact.

With an Account of their Behaviour in Priſon, and laſt Speeches at the place of Execution.

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THE

CONFESSION

AND

EXECUTION

OF

TYRURN

The Confeſſion and Execution of the ſeveral Priſoners Burnt and hang'd on *April* 17. 1678.

DEath in its own nature is very affrighting to Man, the King of Terrours, much more when he comes attended with ſhameful and ignominious Circumſtances; when Perſons conſider that they have haſtened his approach by the Errours of their Lives, and are juſtly cut off for their Crimes. Oh! how ſad is it, when poor Souls are themſelves the occaſion of their being thruſt out of this World by untimely Violence, and yet are not at all fitted or prepared for the next. If they look down to Earth, there is nothing but Juſtice and Vengeance ready to purſue them; and if they look up to Heaven, they cannot but conclude that too pure a place for ſuch unclean Creatures to enter into, whom the Earth it ſelf would no

longer entertain. Yet ſo lamentably do the Deluſions of Satan, and Witchcrafts of Sin, blinde the eyes of theſe Malefactors, that they rarely reflect on theſe things till it be too late; nor will be warned by the frequent Examples of their wretched Fellow-Criminals, to leave off their wicked Courſes, till they are precipitated into the ſame Gulf of Miſery.

THe firſt that we ſhall give the World an Account of, was one *James*, otherwiſe calling himſelf *Maddum*, but as he acknowledged his true name was *Joſeph Wright*. Under theſe ſeveral Denominations he had committed abundance of villanous Pranks, and thoſe above the ordinary rank: for it was juſtified before him in Court, That he and his Gang had ruined many Families, having ſtolen above Forty Horſes; and hireing Grounds near *London*, ſtockt the ſame with Fourſcore ſtolen Sheep at a time, and above Twenty Cattel: and in this manner drove a kind of Trade for a long time together; upon all which he was lookt upon as a perſon excluded from Mercy. The particular Crimes of which he was now Convicted, and for which he ſuffer'd, were for ſtealing a brown Mare out of a Country-mans Stable, and breaking open an houſe and taking away four Flitches of Bacon and a Fowling-piece, which was taken with him.

Thomas Davies was Executed for robbing his breaking

Master of a Watch, and Moneys, to the value of Fifty pounds and upwards.

The next we shall speak of, was one *James Crouch* a person that had but one hand, yet that doubled to do Mischief: for he had already been more than once burnt in that single hand, yet would take no warning; being now Condemned for that most abominable practice of the Foot pad, Knocking a man down with a piece of Iron (produced in Court) in *Bunhill fields*. At the Bar he behaved himself very insolently; and took too little regard of all the good Christian Admonition given him afterwards by godly Ministers and others that came to visit him.

George Dogget was Executed upon his Condemnation the last Sessions before this. His Crime was picking a Watch out of a Gentlemans pocket, and that even at Church. He had long and notoriously been concern'd in *Fending*, that is, as those Hellish Linguists understand the Canting word, receiving and putting off stolen Goods.

Thomas Bateman suffered the same day for breaking an house in *Perpool-lane*; having been burnt in the hand before for a Robbery in the *Temple*. And *William Baker* for robbing a Gentleman in *Hatton-garden*; having likewise been burnt in the hand in *January* last.

As for *William Dukes*, though he were young in years, yet had he too much improved his time in ill practices, having been once before burnt in the hand, and several times in Newgate.

Jane Pratt also suffer'd the terrible death of Burning at a Stake in *Smithfield*, for the too frequent,

quent, though treasonable, practice of Clipping and diminishing his Majesties Coin: The Particulars of her Apprehension and Tryal we have already given you. Upon her Condemnation she begg'd time of the Court to prepare her self for death; but 'twas feared, the same was not so much out of a pious penitent consideration, as a designe to gain time for an opportunity of getting her Pardon.

There were great pains taken, as well by Mr. Ordinary as others, to Convince these poor Souls of the wickedness of their past Lives, the dangerous condition they were in, *&c.* and 'tis charitably hoped those Admonitions had good effect on several of them; though it must be acknowledged as a very great inconvenience, that all Condemned (I mean men) are kept in a Room together, where one debaucht Atheistical Villain, if he do not wholly divert his Fellow Convicts from minding the great concerns of their Soul's wellfare, yet he may too much disturb their Meditation. A sad mischief, which would well become the consideration of Auththority, out of their charitable Compassion towards dying men, to take notice of and regulate, by appointing each person Condemned a distinct and separate Cell, or Lodging.

But this *obiter*——The carriage of most of these persons after Condemnation, was outwardly very penitent; one of the men made a large Confession of the several notorious Exploits he had acted, and those of almost all kinds;

as

as Burglaries, Horse stealings, Robberies on the High-way both on Horseback and on Foot, &c. But could not be brought to detect any of his untaken Confederates. Another pretended to do great things by way of Discovery in that kinde; but at last, being either unable or unwilling to make it appear, suffered with the rest. 'Tis no unnecessary or useless Consideration, because 'tis but what one of these took notice of in discourse to some Friends, *viz.* To observe how these men, who abroad and at liberty were bold enough to invade any mans Propriety, or set upon his Person; yet with how much Terrour (I say) they appeared at the Bar, their hands trembled whilst they were list up, their Lips quaking whilst they Plead Not Guilty.

Their Countenance condemn'd them before the Judge, and their fears were ready to execute them before the Hangman: yet these Judges are but men that must soon die themselves; that Sentence of Death they can pronounce, is already pass'd by Nature upon the most Innocent. The Act of Death is but Momentary; who knows whether himself shall not die more painfully than any of these Malefactors? But with what horror shall the guilty Soul stand, O God, before thy dreadful Tribunal at the last and General Assizes, where there is the presence of an infinite Majesty to daunt him, a fierce and clamorous Conscience to give in Evidence against them, Legions of terrible Devils waiting to seize him, a Gulf of unquenchable Fire ready to receive him! There,

Day; where the Glory of the Judge is no less confounding than the Cruelty of the Tormenter; where the Sentence is unavoidable and the Execution everlasting! These thoughts should move us all to hold privy Sessions upon our Souls and Actions, that being acquitted by our own hearts, we may not be Condemned by this dreadful Majesty.

The woman was Executed first at a Stake for that purpose erected in the Rounds in *Smithfield*. She acknowledged she had for a long time been a very ill Liver, and concern'd in these unlawful practices with others, who were before cut off by Justice, and yet she would take no warning. She made sad moans and lamentations as she past'd, and likewise at the Stake before the Fire was kindled; but as soon as the same was lighted, the Block was put away, and she strangled by the Rope; with which and the smoak and flame, her breath was taken away, and her body soon after burnt to Ashes according to Sentence. Some report that she declared she died in the *Romish* Faith; but that is uncertain: for a Protestant Minister went along by her, and prayed with her at the Stake; with which she seem'd to joyn very heartily.

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